

REMARKS

This application is amended in a manner believed to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1, 3 and 5 are amended as to form to clarify the claimed features, as it appears that the Official Action misinterprets several of the features, e.g., the Si-O-Si bridge structure.

Claims 1-5 remain pending in the application.

The Official Action objects to the Abstract for using vague language.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's suggestion of deleting "the following" preceding (D) and inserting "in the composition" after the second appearance of "contained".

A new Abstract is provided along with this amendment, and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-4 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by KOICHIRO et al. JP 2002-173661 (KOICHIRO). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The position of the Official Action appears to be that the components (A) and (B) of the claimed invention are identical/similar to the compound of KOICHIRO based on the following misunderstandings i) to iii):

i) the total (molecular weight) of a reactive group A' contained in the component (A) is 1000 or less; the ratio of the reactive group A' to the component (A) is 20% by weight or less.

ii) The total (molecular weight) of an Si-H group contained in the component (B) is 1000 or less; the ratio of the Si-H group to the component (B) is 20% by weight or less.

iii) The recitation of "having an Si-O-Si bridge structure" of the claimed invention is misinterpreted to simply --have an Si-O-Si bond--.

As to the above misunderstanding i), the claimed invention recites "the amount of a component whose molecular weight is 1000 or less contained in the component (A) is 20% by weight or less based on the component (A)". The claimed invention does not specify the content ratio of the reactive group A' in the component (A).

This misinterpretation may have resulted from the distance between a modifying phrase and a modified subject. Accordingly, claim 1 is amended as to form to clarify, for example, that component (A) comprises at least one kind of reactive group A', an Si-O-Si bridge, and 20% by weight or less of a component whose weight average molecular weight is 1000 or less. The features of components (B) and (C) are clarified in a similar manner.

Thus, the amendment to claim 1 should also avoid above misunderstanding ii).

As to the above misunderstanding iii), the compound of KOICHIRO (e.g., the compound represented by formula (4) that is pointed out in the Official Action) indeed has an Si-O-Si bond in its main chain, but the compound merely has a simple straight line structure, which is totally different from the Si-O-Si bridge structure as claimed.

The silicon containing composition of the claimed invention stands in contrast to KOICHIRO. As can be taken from the description at [0018] of the present specification that "the component (A) may have a ladder configuration, a cage configuration, a cyclic configuration, etc., depending on the bridge configuration", the bridge structure of the present invention is a particular structure which can form a ladder configuration, a cage configuration, and a cyclic configuration. These configurations can be formed by linking one atom or atomic group in a molecule having a straight line structure such as KOICHIRO's one to another atom or atomic group in the same molecule or by linking two or more molecules having a straight line structure together. (In the case a plurality of bridge structures are present, the term "cross-linked structure" may be more appropriate than the term "bridge structure".)

In view of the above, it is clear than an "Si-O-Si bond" taught in KOICHIRO is completely different from the "bridge structure" of the present invention in terms of structure.

As clarified by the formal amendment to claim 1 to address the above misunderstandings i) to iii), the claimed invention entirely differs from the invention taught in KOICHIRO, especially in view of the components (A) and (B) of the claimed invention.

Hence, it is readily apparent that the claimed invention cannot be anticipated by, nor rendered obvious over, KOICHIRO.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over KOICHIRO in view of VERBRUGGEN et al. WO 03/066707 (VERBRUGGEN). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

VERBRUGGEN is offered for teaching that the refractive index of organopolysiloxane composition increases with an increase in the phenyl group content. However, regardless of the ability of VERBRUGGEN to teach that for which it is offered, VERBRUGGEN cannot remedy the shortcomings of KOICHIRO for reference purposes. VERBRUGGEN fails to disclose or suggest a silicon containing curing composition according to the claimed invention.

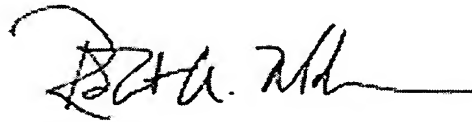
Therefore, the proposed combination fails to render obvious the claimed invention, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the foregoing remarks, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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